

April 23, 2019

At the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Prince Edward County, held at the Court House, thereof, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of April, 2019; at 5:30 p.m., there were present:

Pattie Cooper-Jones

J. David Emert

Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.

Odessa H. Pride

Gene A. Southall

Jerry R. Townsend

James R. Wilck

Absent: Robert M. Jones

Also present: Wade Bartlett, County Administrator.

Chairman Wilck called the special meeting to order.

Mr. Bartlett said revenues are increasing; he said in the original budget transmittal letter, he had reported the General Fund would see a cash increase of about \$866,000, and if it continues, it could approach \$1.2 million. He said some of that is savings in expenses, some is an increase in Revenues. Mr. Bartlett said the delinquency collections and personal property [tax payments] are still climbing because of the DMV Stop, and sales tax is strong. These will affect how much the County may need to borrow for the construction being done. He said the reassessment is one of the current expenses that will not repeat and will cost approximately \$220,000; he said it will not all be spent in the current year but will be budgeted for.

In Re: Budget Discussion Items - STEPS

Mr. Bartlett said there were questions concerning STEPS. He said the County provides funding for the recycling program and the Community Action Agency at STEPS. He said the increase is due to their recalibrating amounts that the counties pay based on that county's poverty level. In 2014, Prince Edward County's poverty level was 19.7%; in 2018 it increased to 23.4%.

Supervisor Jones entered the meeting at this time.

Supervisor Townsend asked how many citizens are being served by the [CAA] programs. Mr. Bartlett said STEPS has provided some of that information in their annual report, and stated that 42,171 are from Prince Edward County. Mr. Bartlett said \$20,000 that is given [by Prince Edward County] is to help fund the workforce.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones said that since STEPS closed the operation in Victoria, they sold all of the equipment and asked how much was brought in from sales of the equipment. Supervisor Townsend said he will attend a meeting at STEPS later this week and will ask.

Chairman Wilck asked if Nottoway [County] receives less help [by not providing the amount of funding requested]. Mr. Bartlett said STEPS, as CAA, are helping people and would not do that. Chairman Wilck said he would like to know how much money Prince Edward County citizens are receiving through these programs. Discussion followed.

Chairman Wilck asked the status of the recycling program. Mr. Bartlett said the County is paying the most for plastic recycling; he said for the cardboard, the County pays some, but gets money back. He added that plastic recycling is declining but it keeps it out of the landfill. Mr. Bartlett said the line item in the budget shows the revenue from Recycling, but the amount received is mixed with metal recycling revenues.

In Re: Budget Discussion Items - Schools

Mr. Bartlett asked for discussion regarding the Assistant Principal position requested.

Supervisor Cooper-Jones stated her reservations regarding the middle school assistant principal position due to the cost and because instructors are needed. Supervisor Townsend agreed, stating there is more need to support the classroom instructors and attain accreditation. Discussion followed regarding the cost and effectiveness of discipline at the schools.

Supervisor Pride stated referrals are being issued but the discipline is not being handled. Discussion followed on issues at the school and on the need for a math teacher.

Chairman Wilck stated some of the requested funding could be used for a math teacher. Mr. Bartlett said the Board of Supervisors has no authority to determine where the funding is spent.

Supervisor Gilliam agreed with the need for a math teacher and questioned the bullying occurring on the bus; he said there appears to be a need for bus monitors.

The Board concurred to not include the \$125,000 for the Assistant Principal. Discussion followed on the remaining positions needed; the Board requested to have Dr. Johnson return to a Board meeting to answer more questions.

In Re: Budget Discussion Items – Fire/EMS

Mr. Bartlett said the Fire Chiefs will meet with the Board May 14 [2019] at 5:30 p.m. Supervisor Emert said the Prince Edward Volunteer Rescue Squad will have a meeting Thursday night. The new board will begin in June; there is a transitional period from now until that time, and at that time, Prince Edward County, Longwood University, Hampden-Sydney College and the Town of Farmville will each have one member on that board.

Mr. Bartlett recommended narrowing down the amount provided for an ambulance and some for the administration.

Supervisor Emert said during discussion, it was determined the College would provide the Administrative services for a year through one of their programs; they also want to do a strategic plan. He said this will transition into allowing more paid firefighters. He said that if Prince Edward can get together on part of the new ambulance, the colleges can do the administrative. Supervisor Emert said they want to do an “in-kind” and the Town would cover the cost to provide each household in the Town of Farmville with Squad Care. He said the Fire/EMS must plan for a new ambulance every five years. A new ambulance with everything required is \$278,000; that is not a top-of-the-line ambulance. Discussion followed.

In Re: Budget Discussion Items – Retail Strategies

Mr. Bartlett said that during the VGA board meeting, he presented the Board’s proposal; the VGA Board voted and said Prince Edward County may remain in Retail Strategies for its final year at \$20,000, which is already budgeted. He said Retail Strategies will now contact counties directly if an opportunity presents itself. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett said GO VIRGINIA is getting additional funding for all regions; they are looking at regional alliances to help fund marketing and additional assistance. He said the Governor's budget contains \$3 million in additional funding for regional entities. Mr. Bartlett said VEDP is going to deal with regional alliances and not with individual communities.

After further discussion, the Board concurred to remain in VGA/Retail Strategies for one more year but if there is no benefit, the County will withdraw.

In Re: Informational Items – Regional Jail

Mr. Bartlett said that during the meeting at the Regional Jail, they were told there will be a \$1.8 million increase in cost; Prince Edward County's portion would be \$550,010. He said the increase is based on an increase in medical costs, which is happening all over the state. He said there are ways to reduce this cost. He said he spoke with Chief Judge White, Judge Blessing and several others for ways to create diversion programs and ways not to put local offenders into the Jail. He said that would open 70 beds for additional federal inmates, which would provide approximately \$1.2 million in revenue. Some of the options include in-home electronic monitoring, pre-trial services, drug court, and other services. Discussion followed.

In Re: Informational Items – Prospect Depot

Mr. Bartlett stated the program appears to be at an end. He said there is a recession process going on with federal funds; these funds were only good for ten years. He said in 2001, the original vote was to agree to act as fiscal agent, with the Board responsible for a match. He said the Board stated County funds would not be used for the project but the agreement is clear the County is responsible for the match. He said the County must pay back approximately \$170,000, but this is much less than the cost to complete the project. VDOT estimates the cost at over \$1 million and the County's grants are less than \$400,000.

Supervisor Jones said he was on the Board at that time and thought Prince Edward County was going to provide an in-kind match. Mr. Bartlett said that when the agreement was made with VDOT, the County agreed that Prince Edward County was responsible.

Discussion followed on the County completing the building.

Mr. Bartlett then said the County has the plans for the building, the right of ways, and has done the MOAs. He said the problem is VDOT is adamant that the federal rules must be followed, and funding must

be secured prior to going to bid, among other things. The County must return the money to the federal government and then the County can go for bid on its own. He said the County can contact DCR; he said the Historical Society is highly concerned about the stones. Mr. Bartlett said there is a \$25,000 grant from VEDP to remediate the site and dispose of the lead. He said more information will be presented at the next board meeting; in the meantime, spending will cease and will discuss the project and remediation of the site with DCR. Discussion followed.

Mr. Bartlett asked for the names of the Board members wishing to attend the VACo meeting; he will notify VACo of the RSVPs.

In Re: Closed Session

Supervisor Cooper-Jones made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Emert, that the Board convene in Closed Session for a briefing by the County Administrator pertaining to pending legal matter where such briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the *Code of Virginia*, and for discussion of the acquisition of real property for the public purpose of county waste management, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position of the County, pursuant to the exemption provided for in Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the *Code of Virginia*; the motion carried:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	J. David Emert	
	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Odessa H. Pride	
	Gene A. Southall	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	James R. Wilck	

The Board returned to regular session by motion of Supervisor Emert, seconded by Supervisor Jones and adopted as follows:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Gene A. Southall
Jerry R. Townsend
James R. Wilck

Nay: None

On motion of Supervisor Emert, and seconded by Chairman Wilck, and carried by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Pattie Cooper-Jones
J. David Emert
Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.
Robert M. Jones
Odessa H. Pride
Gene A. Southall
Jerry R. Townsend
James R. Wilck

Nay: None

the following Certification of Closed Meeting was adopted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act:

WHEREAS, the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the *Code of Virginia* requires a certification by this Board of Supervisors that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Prince Edward County Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Wilck declared a recess at 7:12 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. to relocate to the Board of Supervisors Room.

Chairman Wilck called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Wilck presented the following statement:

Before I open the public hearing, I'd like to provide a synopsis of the proposed budget focusing on major items. First, I'm pleased to announce there are no tax or fee increases included in the proposed budget. Additionally, the recommended budget is balanced with no use of County fund balances or reserves.

The proposed budget contains an increase of \$596,687 for the Prince Edward County Public Schools bringing the total amount of local funding for the schools to \$9,037,671. This is the exact amount requested by the school board and shows the commitment of the Board of Supervisors to educating our children. It is slightly more than 39% of the total General Fund Budget and is more than three and a half times the amount the County provides to fund all of the Constitutional Officers combined. The additional funding allows the School to provide a 5% pay increase to all school employees, hire four additional teachers, a technology assistant and an assistant principal for the middle school.

The Board did not forget the County's workforce, the proposed budget includes a 3% pay increase for all county employees and Constitutional offices.

There are six capital expenditure items in the proposed General Fund budget. First is \$157,000 for the purchase of three new vehicles and radar units for the Sheriff's department. Second is \$34,000 for a new pickup truck for Public Works and \$12,000 for a commercial grade zero turn mower. Third, is \$82,750 to purchase computers, printers etc. - \$40,000 will be used to upgrade the County's operating system for the IBM AS 400. The fourth is \$45,000 to repave the parking lot at the Natural Resources building. There are also four capital items in the Solid Waste Fund costing \$205,000. These are (1) a used bulldozer, (2) maintenance shop, (3) three buildings at convenience sites and (4) repairs to the scale house.

Also contained in the proposed budget is \$220,000 to conduct the mandated reassessment of all real property in the County. This is a one-time expense the County incurs every six years.

How could the County pay for all the items I mentioned above without a tax increase? The answer is good management by the Board of Supervisors and a growing local economy.

Five years ago, the Board of Supervisors conducted an in-depth review of the entire County Budget. The result was the elimination of approximately half a million dollars in expenses. But more importantly that action set a tone and direction for the Boards that have followed and the County staff to be ever diligent in minimizing the use of your tax dollars.

In addition to good management the County has seen an increase in revenues from various sources, but mainly from Real Estate and Personal Property. The County is growing and this growth has allowed the County to absorb spending increases. Some of the new and expanded businesses that we have seen over the last few years include Adams Construction, the new W. C. Newman Concrete Plant, the continued expansion of J. R. Tharpe Trucking, in Rice; Power Secure; Tri-Boro Shelving and Racking; Luck Stone Quarry and the new hotels located in Farmville and the newest addition - YAKATTACK.

Economic growth is continuing and may well be accelerating. These new businesses are expanding our tax base and creating new jobs for our citizens.

Finally, I want to thank all of our Constitutional Officers and County department directors for working with the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator to hold down costs while maintaining a high level of service for our citizens. Thank you for indulging me and I will now open the public hearing.

Chairman Wilck opened the public hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak, Chairman Wilck closed the public hearing.

Chairman Wilck said the Board will meet Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for the adoption of the County and School Budgets and Tax Rates.

On motion of Supervisor Cooper-Jones, seconded by Supervisor Emert, and adopted by the following vote:

Aye:	Pattie Cooper-Jones	Nay: None
	J. David Emert	
	Llew W. Gilliam, Jr.	
	Robert M. Jones	
	Odessa H. Pride	
	Gene A. Southall	
	Jerry R. Townsend	
	James R. Wilck	

the meeting was recessed at 7:32 p.m. until Tuesday, April 30, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisor's Room, 111 South Street, Third Floor, Farmville, Virginia.